



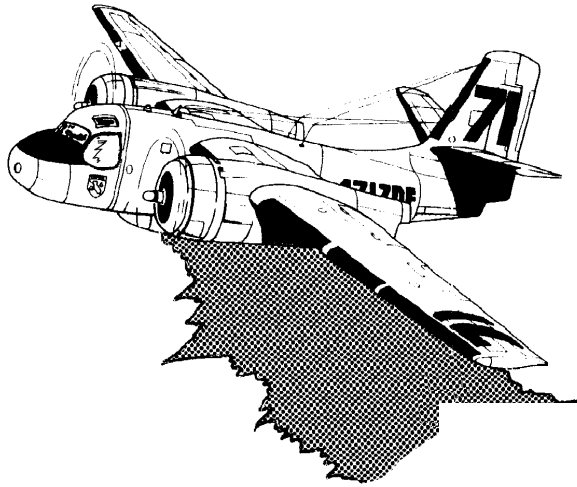
FIRE CREW FIREFIGHTING TRAINING

Procedures Handbook 4200

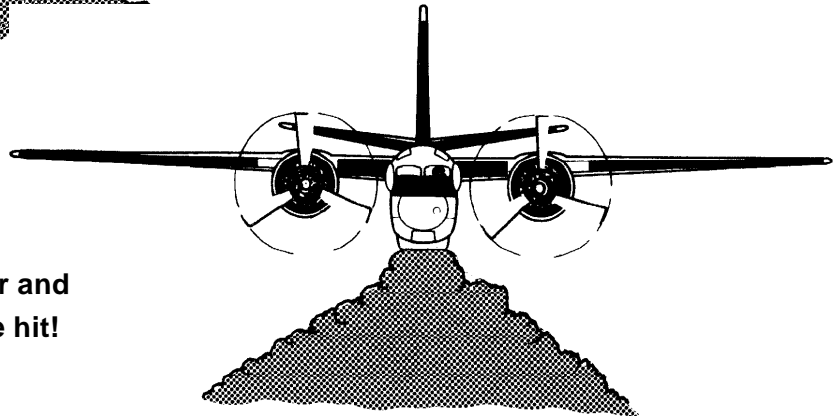
AIRTANKER
RETARDANT DROP
SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Air Drop Precautions

Student Information Sheet 4204.4-1



If this is what you see, you are safe
from the main part of the drop.



If this is what you see – **take cover and
precautions – you're going to be hit!**

General Information

1. Retardant drops from airtankers can be dangerous. A low drop has sufficient velocity and mass to not only knock you off your feet but can also throw you considerable distance.
2. While being hit directly by a load of retardant is at best a sloppy sticky mess, generally no serious bodily injuries will be caused by the retardant, if you take the proper precautions. The major cause of bodily injury resulting from a low drop is being thrown against rocks, trees, etc., or being struck by flying debris picked up by the retardant.
3. Air tanker pilots are constantly cautioned about the dangers to ground personnel resulting from low drops. Report immediately any injuries caused by a low drop. Obtain information on aircraft type and assigned tanker number.
4. If you are standing or running and are hit by main force of the load from a low drop, you can expect to be thrown and bounced around rather violently.
5. If you are prone and are hit by a low drop the risk of injury is reduced considerably over the injuries you might receive were you standing or running.
6. If you are hit by a low drop don't add to the flying debris – hold onto the tools or other equipment you might be carrying. Those flying tools or equipment could cause injury to you or someone on your crew.



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AIRTANKER RETARDANT
DROP SAFETY
PRECAUTIONS

The Proper Position for an Air Drop

Student Information Sheet 4204.4-2



If caught in the open, lie down facing incoming airtanker. Hold tools firmly and to one side. Hold helmet on; spread your feet for better stability, goggles in place to protect eyes.